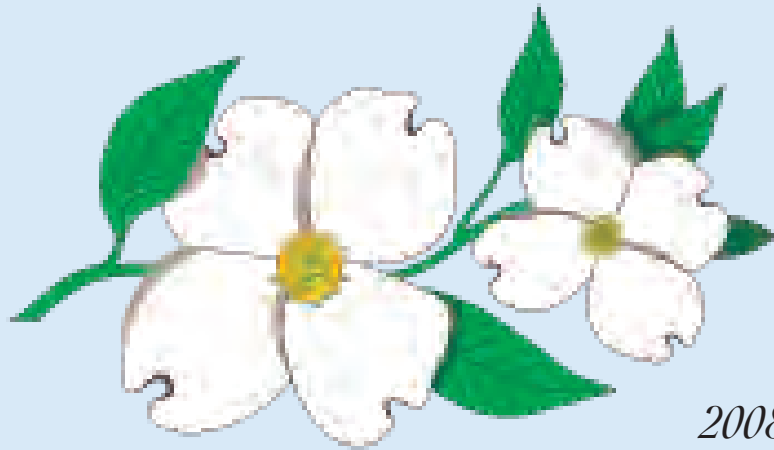


*“Let People With Disabilities Live Real Lives”*



2008

*Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities  
Annual Program Performance Report*

## *The Council . . .*

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities is a federally-funded, 23-member, consumer-driven council appointed by the Governor. Our mandate, under P.L. 106-402 (the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act) is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration in all aspects of community life. The Council's mission is:

*“To assist the community to include  
all people with developmental disabilities  
in every aspect of life.”*

The Council believes that mission will be achieved when people with developmental disabilities:

- ⌘ make informed choices about where they live, work, play and worship;
- ⌘ receive individual and family supports, which are flexible, based on need and provided in a culturally-sensitive manner;
- ⌘ have the opportunity to engage in productive employment and meaningful retirement;
- ⌘ experience continued growth toward their full potential;

- ⌘ live in homes with the availability of individualized supports;
- ⌘ are treated with dignity and respect;
- ⌘ attend school with their peers in regular classrooms in neighborhood schools, and
- ⌘ are members of powerful advocacy networks made up of individuals, parents and family members.

The Council also believes that individuals, parents and family members are the most powerful forces in forging a responsive and flexible support network for people with developmental disabilities.

The Council engages in planning, advocacy and capacity-building efforts to assist in meeting our federal mandate. One way that we accomplish this responsibility is by supporting projects through a “Call for Investment” (CFI) process. As Council members assessed the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members across the state, we found ourselves asking how we could provide leadership in addressing those needs and concerns.

*“Let People With Disabilities  
Live Real Lives!”*





often than not, employee accommodations are minor and inexpensive. The program is also helpful in providing co-workers with supports to accept fellow employees who have a disability. 448 individuals completed the curriculum the first year and requested their certificate of completion. We hope to market this resource to additional business leaders in the future.



## MENTORING

The Council supported three projects and recently awarded a fourth project that brings key leaders from the schools, community colleges, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living Centers, Career Centers, and the provider community together to develop mentoring programs for high school students. Students complete interest inventories, develop resumes, job shadow, experience real work in the community, explore

Following a study of the barriers that many individuals face in trying to access a particular employment system, the Council developed an on-line training program that allows state trainers to receive training credit for learning about Diversity in Employment and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This curriculum was expanded to assist business leaders in understanding that, more

education opportunities, and learn to navigate the service systems prior to graduation. Some have developed business plans for small motor repair, car detailing, lawn care businesses, and in-home childcare. Additionally, students learned how to develop marketing plans. When one grantee found

*I want to get a real job when I leave school. How do I get all of the various resources to work together to help me be prepared and to actually find and keep a job?*

that transportation was a major barrier to students participating in the program, they worked with occupational therapists to adapt the schools' driving curriculum and assisted 26 students in obtaining their drivers' licenses. 66 students participated in the mentoring projects and so far, 31 have graduated, 13 have jobs in the community and 8 have enrolled in additional educational programs. This is an increase

from the preprogram baseline at each of the schools. Many students in the program are still in school but we will continue to track these projects to monitor overall outcomes for the participants.

# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The Council was very pleased with outcomes from two collaborative teaching projects. All 436 students with disabilities in the two school districts have received the supports they need to increase their participation in the regular classroom setting. Following this project, the Clayton School District supports 93 percent of their students with disabilities in the general education classroom more than 80 percent of the school day. Kirksville R-III School District also continues to increase the supports for children in the general education classroom. The Council hosted a collaborative teaching conference to share this best practice model with school leaders and family advocates from across the state and over 180 participants increased their knowledge of how co-teaching can allow all students to participate in regular education classes.



*My daughter's school encouraged us to send her to a special school or at least a special class, but she really wants to be with her friends at school and that is what we want for her. How can we make this happen?*

# PARTNERS

*Where can I learn about my rights? How can I be a better advocate? What resources are there to help me raise my daughter to be a part of the community?*

The Council provides leadership training for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through its support of *Partners in Policymaking*. Missouri boasts 289 graduates, and each year we see some remarkable accomplishments from their leadership skills. Partners have been instrumental in successfully advocating to drop the “MR” from the name of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. One graduate is using her leadership skills to change Missouri’s parking signs from using derogatory terms. Others have developed an interactive web site as a resource for families of children with autism, written resource books for families, developed a regional advocacy group, and are building a parent advisory council within their local school district. Many of our graduates serve on local and state boards and committees that influence the services provided to people with developmental disabilities.



# DDRC/SOS/VOLUNTEERS

*Where do I go for information about my family member’s disability? I just want to talk to someone who understands. Are there others who are encountering the same barriers as me? How can I help others with developmental disabilities?*

The Council partners with the Institute for Human Development to support the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC) that provides free state-of-the-art information about developmental disabilities, evidence-based practices and resources that help individuals remain in their communities. There is also a peer-to-peer mentoring component that allows individuals, families and professionals to be connected with others who can assist them in connecting with others facing similar challenges and experiences. A third component supports

individuals and families to volunteer to assist others. The DDRC provided 1,378 packets of information to Missourians in 2008; 78 individuals were matched with a peer mentor and 376 volunteers signed up to provide assistance to programs, committees or working groups.



## People First of Missouri

*I want my voice heard! I want to control my life and learn how to make that happen! I want to know and fight for my rights! Is there a group of people that is doing that? Who can help?*

The Council invests in People First of Missouri in order to continue building and increasing the self-advocacy movement in Missouri. People First represents many people with disabilities; there are 22 local affiliated chapters. That means they have an agreement with the Statewide Chapter. Four

times a year each chapter sends two members and an advisor to a meeting. This forms the Statewide Steering Committee. All the chapters work to advocate for shared priorities, learn new information, provide support and share new ideas with each other. People First of Missouri also has an 800 number and a quarterly newsletter written by members. For more information call People First of Missouri: 1-800-558-8652.



# COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT

The Council has joined with the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development, the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services, the Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and the Missouri Chapter of the American Network of Community Options and Resources to implement the College of Direct Support (CDS), an internet-based training curriculum for professionals who provide direct support to individuals with disabilities.

*I need better support staff!  
How do I find really good  
staff or train those that  
I have now to be the best  
staff possible?*

CDS is considered to be contemporary best practice as well as an efficient, economical and effective means of developing a well-trained direct support workforce. While still in the pilot phase, Missouri now has nearly 2,000 trainees, and has issued over 200 certificates. The training program is being placed in Missouri's Workforce Development Career Centers, and we hope to begin promoting the program to the high school vocational programs as well. The Council feels that CDS will lead to a better-trained workforce, allow individuals to live a better quality life and have increased opportunities for community inclusion. For more information on the College of Direct Support, visit:

<http://www.moddrc.org/direct/index.html>



# TRANS- PORTATION

*I really want to work and I even got a job, but I lost my job because I can't find a ride when they want me to work. I can't drive because of my disability. Isn't there some way to get help getting to my job?*

Transportation continues to be a major barrier for many of Missouri's residents who have a disability. In an effort to develop new and innovative strategies, the Council partnered with communities to develop affordable, flexible and accessible transportation solutions that would benefit entire communities. Now, two communities have developed



Transportation Solutions tailored for their individual community needs. In Boonville, the citizens have the "KATY Flyer", a demand-response transportation provider within the city limits of Boonville. The KATY Flyer has allowed people with and without disabilities to go to work, shop or recreate throughout Boonville. In Jefferson County, the Jefferson County "JET" now offers people from across the county a link to four communities in Jefferson County and the City of St. Louis. Both communities have developed "How To" manuals for other communities to replicate similar transportation solutions for their communities.

# ADVOCACY EFFORTS

*How can we make sure that the voices of individuals and families are heard by legislators and policy makers?*

The Missouri Planning Council engages in advocacy and partners with others to provide a coordinated message to legislators and policy makers across the state. We are very proud to provide leadership at a Disability Rights Legislative Day. This event typically brings over 500 people to the state's Capitol to talk with legislators about the impact of budget decisions on their lives and what services and supports will help them to be a part of their communities. Members visited many state

legislators and their staff during a legislative breakfast, heard advocates and policy makers speak to the important issues, and made personal visits to talk about how decisions in Jefferson City affect their every day lives. The Council provided information about key issues to legislators and policy makers on a regular basis and assisted Council members to provide testimony and visit with legislators regarding policy priorities of the Council. Council staff and members assume leadership roles in many organizations and advocacy efforts to promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration in all aspects of community life for people with disabilities. Council members and staff are also active members of other advocacy and professional organizations such as the Disability Coalition on Health Care Reform; the Congress on Disability Policy; the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; the Missouri Assistive Technology Board; The Arc of the United States, One Missouri (a Coalition for Community Inclusion); Association for Persons in Supported Employment, and the Emergency Preparedness Special Needs Population Steering Committee.



## GUARDIANSHIP

The Council has initiated several additional projects, but outcomes are preliminary. Watch for future reports on the Guardianship Project that provide educational sessions to inform self-advocates, families and other interested individuals about alternatives to full guardianship as well as supports for a few individuals who have full guardianship and wish to make a change to a less restrictive alternative or to eliminate their guardianship altogether. The process will be documented in an easy-to-comprehend manual to allow others to see how this can be done.



The Council has also initiated an effort to train self-advocates, families, providers and other stakeholders about self-determination to help individuals with disabilities live lives just like everyone else, where they can make decisions about their lives and seek the supports that they need to do so. This project will also train support brokers who will be available to individuals who wish to use their service dollars to purchase assistance in recruiting; hiring, firing and managing direct care staff; connecting with community resources, and implementing life goals. It is early in the process, but we are seeing increasing numbers of individuals trained, and we hope to see the number of people in Missouri who are self-directing their services double.

## SELF-DETERMINATION

# How Does The Council Invest Its Resources?

During FY 2008, the Missouri Planning Council invested \$1,114,750 in grants and projects that directly benefited Missourians with developmental disabilities and their families. These funds are tied to specific outcomes that were identified by an extensive statewide needs assessment in such areas as education, employment, housing, transportation, quality assurance and community supports. From these investments, the Council also leveraged state and private funds totaling \$143,325.



# Who are the Council Members?

The Missouri Planning Council is a unique entity bringing together people with diverse perspectives who are appointed by the Governor. Membership includes:

- ⌘ people with developmental disabilities and their family members,
- ⌘ representatives of state agencies and service providers, and
- ⌘ Advocates and other interested citizens.

## Current Members

- Paula Bonney, Waynesville (Parent)  
Stephanie Briscoe, Lathrop (Parent)  
Susan Eckles, St. Louis  
(Protection & Advocacy Services Representative)  
Cathy Enfield, Independence (Self-advocate)  
Michelle Hoffmeister, Farmington (Parent)  
Vim Horn, Kansas City  
(University Center for Excellence in DD Representative)  
Terry Mackey, Mexico (Parent)  
Vicki McCarrell, Boonville  
(SB40 & Sheltered Workshop Representative)  
Brenda Niemeyer, Kirksville (Parent)  
Joann Noll, St. Louis (Parent)  
Bobby O'Dell, Conway (Self-advocate)  
Mark Ohrenberg, Columbia (Self-advocate)  
Kit Stahlberg, Fredericktown,  
(Self-advocate)  
Charlie Taylor, Jefferson City  
(IDEA Agency Representative)  
Diana Willard, Joplin  
(Self-Advocate)  
Sharon Williams, Lee's Summit (Parent)

## Ad Hoc Members

- Tec Chapman, Jefferson City  
(DD Agency Representative)  
John Harper, Jefferson City  
(Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Representative)  
Theresa Valdes, Jefferson City  
(Title XIX Agency Representative)  
Terri Woodward, Jefferson City  
(Older Americans Act Agency Representative)

## Staff

- Susan Pritchard-Green, Director  
Sherrie Hanks, Adm.Assistant  
Vicky Davidson, Mental Heath Manager  
Cathy Brown, Program Specialist  
Charles Nickolaus, Program Specialist  
Dolores Sparks, Program Specialist  
Pam Byars, Program Assistant  
Vicki Hummel, Sr. Office Support Asst.

# How Can I Get Involved?

Visit our website at [mpcdd.com](http://mpcdd.com) and join us in our efforts to bring change to Missouri.

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for Developmental Disabilities  
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
573-751-8611  
800-500-7878



[www.mpcdd.com](http://www.mpcdd.com)

